

ABSTRACT

A cell containing sample is separated into a cell containing portion and a substantially cell depleted portion, by mixing the sample with particles to produce a cell
5 containing network, and separating the network from the remaining substantially cell
depleted portion using a magnetic force. It is contemplated that whole blood may be used
as the sample, and that the cell-containing portion largely comprises a network of inter-
linked red blood cells. It is especially contemplated that separation involves anti-ligands,
preferably primary antibodies that bind to a ligand such as antigen on or in red blood cell
10 membranes, and secondary antibodies that bind to the primary antibodies. It is also
contemplated that the primary antibodies can be coupled to the surfaces of paramagnetic
beads.